

REMARKS

Claims 27-29 are currently pending. Claims 1-26 have been cancelled. Claim 27 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 18, on which the claim originally depended. Claim 29 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 18, on which the claim originally depended. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added by these amendments.

In compliance with Applicants ongoing duty of disclosure under 37 CFR § 1.56 Applicants submit, concurrent with this response, a supplemental information disclosure statement.

The supplemental information disclosure statement discloses office actions rejecting claims containing similar, but not identical, limitations as the present case. These office actions were issued in applications that are commonly owned and have common inventorship with the present invention.

The present application relates to PCT Application No. PCT/US2003/033946 which is disclosed in the supplemental information disclosure statement. An Office Action received during the prosecution of the European national stage application of this PCT (European Patent Application No. 03783074.2) is also disclosed.

The present application is commonly owned and has common inventorship to U.S. Patent Application No. 10/291,878, previously brought to the Examiner's attention in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on November 27th, 2006. The Office Actions cited during the prosecution of this application have been cited and provided in the supplemental information statement. The PCT equivalent to the '878 application is also disclosed along. An Office Action received during the prosecution of the European national stage application of this PCT (European Patent Application No. 02795699.4) is also disclosed.

The present application also is commonly owned and has common inventorship to U.S. Patent Application No. 10/291,886, previously brought to the Examiner's attention in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on November 27th, 2006, and its continuation application, U.S. Patent Application No. 11/707,221. The Office Actions cited during the

prosecution of the '886 application have been cited and provided in the supplemental information statement. The PCT equivalent to the '886 application is also disclosed along. An Office Action received during the prosecution of the European national stage application of this PCT (European Patent Application No. 02808139.6) is also disclosed.

The present application is also commonly owned and has similar inventorship to U.S. Patent Application No. 12/302,458. The PCT equivalent to the '458 application is disclosed in the supplemental search report.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 27-29 would be allowable if they did not depend from a rejected claim. Claim 27, on which claim 28 depends, has been amended into independent form by incorporating the limitations of claim 18, on which claim 27 previously depended from. Claim 29 has also been amended into independent form by incorporating the limitations of claim 18, on which claim 29 previously depended from. Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks and amendments presented herein, reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending rejections and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested. The Examiner is strongly encouraged to contact the undersigned at the phone number below should any issues remain with respect to the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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